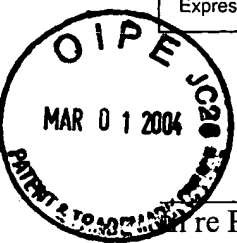


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Docket No.: 01641/1200440-US2
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Patent Application of:
Jorg Schultz et al.

Application No.: 10/735,172

Confirmation No.:

Filed: December 12, 2003

Art Unit: N/A

For: RETICLE-MASKING OBJECTIVE WITH
ASPHERICAL LENSES

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the U.S. filing date (37 CFR 1.97(b)(1)).

A copy of each document on the PTO/SB/08 is attached. Pursuant to the Notice issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office dated July 11, 2003 waiving the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(i), copies of the United States Patents on PTO/SB/08a are not submitted with the exception of the corresponding patent publications for the foreign patent documents.

Citations BA, BC, BE - BH are not in the English language. In accordance with 1.98(c), Applicant states:

The requirement for concise explanation of relevance of Citations BA, BC, BE-BH is satisfied by the accompanying corresponding United States Patents (see MPEP § 609 A(3)x).

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is “prior art” for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed documents.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency of up to \$300.00 or credit any excess in this fee to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Dated: March 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By Walter E. Kupper (S3,970)
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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/735,172
				Filing Date	December 12, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Jorg Schultz
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	01641/1200440-US2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US-4,717,242-B1	01-05-1988	Echizen et al.	
	AB	US-4,906,080-B1	03-06-1990	Omata	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA	WO-95/32446-A1 Corresponding Patent Publication US 5,742,436	11-30-1995	Furter, Gerd		X
	BB	EP-1 316 832-A1	06-04-2003	Suenaga, Yutaka		
	BC	EP-0 564 264-A1 Corresponding Patent Publication US 5,608,575	03-31-1993	Shiozawa, Takahisa et al.		X
	BD	EP-0 811 865-A2	12-10-1997	Mizouchi, Satoru		
	BE	DE-94 09 744.5 Corresponding Patent Publication US 5,646,715	10-27-1994	Wangler, Johannes		X
	BF	DE-44 41 947-A1 Corresponding Patent Publication US 5,675,401	05-30-1996	Richter, Gerald et al.		X
	BG	DE-195 48 805-A1 Corresponding Patent Publication US 5,982,558	07-03-1997	Furter, Gerd et al.		X
	BH	DE-199 42 281-A1 Corresponding Patent Application Publication US 2002/0149855	11-16-2000	Schuster, Karl-Heinz		X
	BI	DE-292 727-A1	08-08-1991	Symanowski, Christfried et al.		X

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	CA	N. Nomura et al.; "ArF QUARTER-MICRON PROJECTION LITHOGRAPHY WITH AN ASPHERICAL LENS SYSTEM"; Microelectronic Engineering, April 1990, vol. 11; pages 183-186.	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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Application No. (if known): 10/735,172

Attorney Docket No.: 01641/1200440-US2


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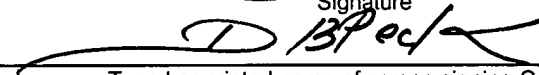
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